During his visit, the Prime Minister conveyed to the Government and people of Pakistan India's deep desire for peace and friendship with them and to develop a comprehensive structure of cooperation for the benefit of the two peoples. The Prime Minister and the Pakistan Prime Minister signed the Lahore Declaration which is a landmark for the peace and security of the two countries. India and Pakistan will now work to enter into agreements to put into place far-reaching Confidence Building Measures. The two countries also identified new and significant areas of cooperation such as information technology, and decided to address humanitarian issues at a ministerial level on an urgent basis. Government expect that the Prime Minister's historic initiative, and his reiteration that a secure, stable and prosperous Pakistan is in India's interest, will mark a new chapter in our bilateral ties.

Discussions with various countries on the Nuclear Issue

979. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any extensive discussions have taken place between India and the Governments of Russia, France, Japan and the U.K. on the nuclear issues; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of these discussions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir, India is engaged in a dialogue with key interlocutors viz US, France, Russia and UK on the basis of a set of voluntary proposals made by India after concluding the limited series of underground nuclear tests in May 1998. Talks have also been held with Japan.

(b) These discussions have led to a better understanding of India's security concerns and its responsible record on disarmament and non-proliferation. Our interlocutors have also acknowledged the value of the voluntary steps taken by India after the nuclear tests. The prescriptive agenda evident immediately after the tests has given way to a narrower, constructive framework and some of the restrictive economic measures announced by some countries after the tests have been withdrawn. The dialogues are continuing.

Rail and road services between India and Pakistan

980. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail and road services between India and Pakistan have begun as a confidence building measure between the two countries; and

(b) if so, how this traffic is being regulated and what is the to and fro frequency of rail and road services indicating the starting points and destinations in the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) An India-Pakistan Agreement and a Protocol, providing a framework and an operational mechanism for the Delhi-Lahore/Lahore-Delhi bus service were signed in Islamabad on 17th February, 1999. Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee travelled to Lahore in the inaugural bus journey from the Indian side on 20th February, 1999.

Under the Protocol the Indian bus will be operated by Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Pakistan Trourism Development Corporation (PTDC) will be the operator of the Pakistani bus. Under the current arrangement, the DTC bus would operate from Delhi to Lahore on Tuesdays and Fridays, and from Lahore to Delhi on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The PTDC bus will similarly operate from Lahore to Delhi on Tuesdays and Fridays and from Delhi to Lahore on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The regular bus service will soon become operational.,

A passenger and goods train service between India and Pakistan has been

operating since 1976. The passenger train, called the Samjhauta Express, runs on Mondays and Thursdays on the Lahore-Attari-Lahore route. The frequency of the goods train is dependent on demand and unloading performance. Presently, there are around 20 to and fro goods trains operating between Amritsar and Lahore every month.

Bilateral relations with Russia

981. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Russian Prime Minister, Mr. Primakov to New Delhi, Government had observed a distinct turn-away of Russia from the US following the US-UK repeated air strikes on Iraq; and

(b) if so, what agreements and understanding for strengthening bilateral relations with Russia were reached during the visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) In the Joint Press Statement issued at the conclusion of the visit to India in December 1998 of the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Y.M. Primakov, India and Russia deplored the missile strikes against Iraq. They strongly urged resumption of diplomatic efforts under UN auspicies.

(b) The following bilateral documents were signed during the visit; Extradition Treaty; Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters; Consular Convention; Long Term Agreement on Military-Technical Cooperation upto the year 2010; Joint Document on Development of Trade, Economic, Industrial, Financial, Science and Technology Cooperation; Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Communications; Air Transport Agreement.

भारत पर आर्थिक प्रतिबंध

982.**श्री बालकवि बैरागी**: क्या विदेशी मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) पोखरण में भारत द्वारा परमाणु विस्फोट किए जाने के उपरांत किन-किन देशों ने भारत पर क्या-क्या आर्थिक प्रतिबंध लगाये थे;

(ख) अब तक किन-किन देशों ने आर्थिक प्रतिबंधों में क्या-क्या छूट दी हैं;और

(ग) ऐसे आर्थिक प्रतिबंधों को हटाने के लिए भारत ने क्या-क्या कूटनीतिक और राजनैतिक प्रयास किए हैं ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री जसवन्त सिंह): (क) और (ख) शस्त्र निर्यात नियंत्रण अधिनियम की धारा 102 के अन्तर्गत,जिसे ग्लेन संशोधन के रूप में भी जाना जाता हैं,संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका ने कतिपय प्रतिबन्धात्मक आर्थिक उपाय लगाए थे । कनाडा,जापान,जर्मनी,नार्वे,डेनमार्क,नीदरलैंड,स्वीडन,आस्ट्रेलिया और स्विरजरलैंण्ड द्वारा घोषित प्रतिबन्ध आमतौर पर विकास सहायता अथवा रियायती ऋणों से सम्बन्ध थे,इनमें से कुछ देशों ने इन उपायों में से मानवता,गरीबी उन्मूलन,खाद्य और बुनियादी मानव आवश्यकताओं से जुड़ी सहायता पर भिन्न-भिन्न छूट दे दी हैं । जुलाई 1998 में अमरीकी कांग्रेस ने 1998 के कृषि निर्यात राहत अधिनियम नामक एक संशोधन पारित किया जिसमें भोजन,दवाइयों और अन्य कृषि संबंधी जिन्सों की खरीद के लिए वित्तीय सहायता को ग्लेन संशोधान की परिधि से बाहर कर दिया। नवम्बर,1998 में अमरीकी प्रशासन ने अमरीका के तीन संस्थानों अर्थात एक्सिम बैंक,ओवरसीज प्राइवेट निवेश कारपोरेशन और ट्रेड डेवलपमेंन्ट,अथारिटी के कार्यक्रमों से सम्बद्व उपायों में 21 अक्तूबर,1999 तक आंशिक छूट देने की घोषणा की है । अमरीकी प्रशासन ने अमरीकी बैंकों द्वारा ऋण देना भी बहाल किया है और अपना अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सैन्य शिक्षा और प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम पुनः शुरू किया है । इसके अलावा 18 फरवरी,1999 को अमरीका ने आंध्र प्रदेश बिजली पुननिर्माण के लिए विश्व बैंक ऋण के अनुमोदन में बाधा नहीं पहुंचाई हैं ।

(ग) सरकार ऐसे सभी प्रतिबंधों को अनोचित्यपूर्ण और अहितकर मानती है और उसका यह विचार है कि इन्हें वापस ले लिया जाना चाहिए । भारत संबंधित मसलों पर प्रमुख वार्ताकारों के साथ बातचीत में लगा हुआ है ।